

youth council

Newsletter of the State Youth Council on Workforce Services • July 2004



It's All In The Name

Help! Our newsletter needs a name and we want your ideas. You've heard the adage one head is better than two, and collectively speaking, many heads are even better. The State Youth Council's newsletter is evolving and needs a name that is reflective of the quality services we provide Utah youth. We thought we'd ask YOU, our

audience, for newsletter name nominations and suggestions.

If you think its okay the way it is, let us know that as well. Please send your ideas to Julie Lay at jlay@utah.gov by August 1, 2004. The subcommittee will choose a name for the October issue.

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Chair's Message...

To further extend Governor Walker's Transition to Adult Living initiative for Foster Youth, DWS has established a pilot program in the North region. The pilot program includes the creation of an operating agreement that will assist youth transitioning from foster care to adult living to better access WIA Youth services and other DWS services for which they might qualify. Planned coordination with other agencies and partners will ensure that these youth are given every opportunity to succeed.

All regions are gearing up for the WIA Youth Summer Employment Opportunities. We will hear back from each region at the end of summer on the results of these activities. I would like to thank all those regional youth council members, our DWS staff and our vendors who are so dedicated and committed to the youth that we serve. Great things are happening because of you.



Jan Zogmaister

Mountainland Spotlight

Kathy Dimick, Mountainland Consortium of Education

Just a Summer Job?

As the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) begins to venture from the infant to toddler stages as a Youth Employment and Education program across the United States we can begin to see the JTPA to WIA switch in program development nationwide.

For many of the WIA providers in the United States the Act was an invitation to change the sign on the door. Staff began to work with the new goals and objectives under a new name only. The JTPA program had already established themselves in their respective communities with local employers and they could draw from those same resources in their beginning months.

In some cases, the change in a door sign is still not complete. They are still working towards adapting to the year-round emphasis the WIA program requests. In the Mountainland Region WIA was piloted in what some may call a new direction. The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) met with local education partners to incorporate the WIA, educational goals and objectives into the program by linking directly

with the academic school system. A partnership to contract services for the in-school youth through the local school districts was put to the planning stages.

As a result of the vision of the DWS and leading educators, the Mountainland Consortium of Education was established in 2001. The consortium is a partnership of seven school districts in three Utah counties. The seven school superintendents through this partnership agreed to provide a single program delivery system in our region and have also become the contract provider for DWS in our region for both in-school and out-of-school youth. However, unique as the partnership was, there wasn't a change in door signs!

The program was built from the ground up with the cooperation and partnerships of many community resources and school administrators throughout the region. This unique partnership has provided a foundation for the WIA Youth Program to build its own identity. A parent recently dropped by our offices with a letter that signifies how the WIA Youth program is now receiving recognition as its own program:

"I wanted to thank the WIA program for the differences you make in our children's lives. A year ago Marilyn

A Day in the Life

Brandon Sewell

The ideal employment counselor would be a fortuneteller or a seer. The ability to predict what would occur each day, what surprises would come, and what mistakes or progress the youth would make would be priceless. Then again, the surprises, being good or bad, are what make this job enjoyable.

As I arrived in the office on Wednesday, Emily left me a message something like this, "Brandon, this is Emily. Just wanted you to know I began my internship at the Forest Service two days ago. I'm having SO much fun! I need you to get me some hiking boots and a Camelbak by tonight. But you won't be able to get a hold of me because I'll be working until six o'clock. Thanks!"

The tendency to be excited was my natural reaction until I remembered I had asked her to simply talk to the Forest Service about the possibility of hosting an internship. She had not signed an internship

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Mountainland Spotlight cont.

Bigney from Migrant Head Start referred us to your program. From the start I thought it was just a summer job like they used to have for young adults. I really do not know where to begin. My daughter is a very shy girl and with cultural differences she was not very aggressive with class work and always had to be put to resource classes throughout her school years.

"This year would have been the most difficult year if we did not have this program in our lives to help Yvonna. The teachers and counselor at the high school thought that it was too much to make up all the classes she needed to make up for her to graduate.

"We were also told that if she did not have a good grade when she was done with her packets with home study she would only get a district diploma. If it was not for your help she would not be graduating tomorrow evening. She is very excited and happy!

You have a great employee by the name of Brandon Sewell that kept doing a good job with his follow up with Yvonna and seeing if there were any needs that she had and that it was taken care of immediately.

"Again thank you so much and keep up the good work because you all make a difference for our children."

Parent support letters like this one indicate that WIA is not *Just Another Summer Job*. In the Mountainland region we credit the unique partnership with education and community resources in three counties for the ability to provide the ten service elements WIA requires.

This approach has us in line with the recent DOL recommendations for WIA programs to work more closely with academic institutions to achieve desired outcomes. Although JTPA was a strong program in its development and operation WIA is taking the next steps towards meeting all the needs of our youth.

Letters like Mrs. Sanchez' are a strong indicator of how WIA can make a difference in our region, statewide, and across the U.S.

As a side note, since Brandon Sewell was recognized as an excellent employment counselor by a grateful parent, we asked him to give us a "day in the life" of an employment counselor. Our region includes both rural and urban communities and we serve youth in



Summit, Kamas, Park City, Heber, and Goshen areas among others.

We are often asked how we are able to serve such a high population per staff member and we are all, of course, proud of the efficiency and teamwork that has been developed to help us accomplish a high staff to youth ratio. Training, good partnerships, and the efficiency that comes with the knowledge of good training and service providers are all key elements to our success.

A Day in the Life cont.

contract. The employer had not signed an internship contract. She was not even being covered under Workman's Compensation. Silently I hoped she would remain free from injuries every day of her internship, especially today. I really didn't want to explain that she would have been covered under Worker's Comp. if...". Flexibility is a needed attribute for every employment counselor.

As the morning progressed, I returned all of my messages and began typing up two other internship contracts. An employer called me who needed to sign a contract for another youth. "I'll be here for 30 more minutes," I explained. Unfortunately, I missed the employer but a co-worker met with her and took care of things.

I was off to Melodie's father's house in Orem to give her an internship orientation. Besides the fact that I could not remember where her father lived, everything went well. Thank goodness for cell phones and co-workers.

As mid-afternoon approached, the clock was going faster than I had wanted. I arrived at a school in Heber to meet another youth at her internship and have

her sign the contract I typed up earlier. After completing the papers, she said, "You know, I'm not sure that I'll be able to continue this internship. I have a kid that needs to be watched and I have nobody to do it." Out of all the times we had talked about the internship, this was the first I had heard about baby sitting issues. Fortunately, policy allows for two months of childcare.

My sights were next set on the grand town of Coalville. My plan was to meet a youth at her house and fill out intake information to enroll her into our program. You would have to be a Coalville native to know that 100 North is the same street as Chalk Creek Road. With an awkward expression, a gas station attendant looked at me quizzically as though everyone knows 100 North is Chalk Creek Road.

With his directions, I found my destination, but the young lady looked less than excited to see me. It really didn't matter though because our slogan is "Service with a Smile." Mr. and Mrs. Smith, her elderly adoptive parents, had a lot to explain to me—about themselves. I now know more about Mr. Smith's life than that of my own father. The intake took quite some time.

Winding the day down, I was off to Park City to help a customer write a resume and learn to use our Web site. I never did see her and found out that she had a job interview.

After leaving the canyon, my cell phone beeped indicating I had voice mails. One of them was from Mrs. Smith telling me that I left my camera at her house. I thought I would do myself a favor and save that trip for another day. At least this time I know where Chalk Creek Road is located.

I really enjoy my job and all of the challenges it brings. I am glad to be part of a team that works so well together in helping the youth in our area.

WIA and the Adult to Transitional Living Initiative in Mountainland

Governor Walker's foster care initiative is a unique opportunity for DCFS and WIA to further help youth towards employability and self-sufficiency. Across the state all of the WIA programs are working with DCFS staff to enhance partnerships across regions, counties, and school districts in an effort to increase the success rate of youth exiting the foster care system.

In the Mountainland region we are fortunate to participate in the Employment, Training and Education Taskforce and attend additional sub-task committee meetings. In February as we discussed how the "scholarship voucher system" for foster care youth entering college could be handled we saw WIA as an immediate asset. To validate that we could be the asset in providing the voucher system, we elected to review what percentage of our youth were in foster care. Our local DCFS partner, Eric Jenkins, provided a list of youth in custody from ages of 14 to 19.

A review of the youth in both programs allowed us to report to the committee that in our region there was a high population of youth already enrolled.

Youth Age in Custody	% Youth in WIA
Age 14	0%
Age 15	27%
Age 16	40%
Age 17	50%
Age 18	64%
Age 19	100%

Despite the fact that our region has until recently had an average waiting list of 100 youth, the percentages were very enlightening. DCFS staff was exceptional at referring youth for services in our region. As youth reached employability age and the adult to transitional living deadlines were significant, the percentage of youth participating at the 17-19 year old age groups was increasing to a 100% participation level.

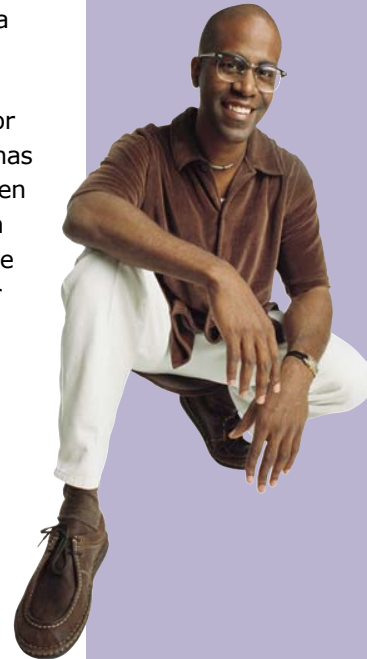
With the 30% increase in funding for the 2005 fiscal year, Mountainland has after two and a half years finally been able to break the "waiting list." With the new initiative and absence of the waiting list we can anticipate higher enrollments for foster care youth.

Recently we took two of our dual enrolled youth to meet Governor Walker at a planning meeting to share their insight as foster care youth. Both enjoyed the opportunity to meet a prominent leader and were full of ideas on how foster care services could be enhanced.

QUOTES

If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you.

-Muhammad Ali



Region Updates

NORTHERN REGION:

Youth Highlights, Futures Through

Training: Guess who's going to Stanford University? Tyler Riding! Tyler began the youth program at Futures Through Training (FTT), Inc. when he was 15 years old. Tyler was also participating in Upward Bound, a program that helps youth who are expected to be a family's first generation to be college bound. Due to Tyler's hard work, he was accepted to Stanford University and is receiving \$41,000 per year in scholarships and grants! We are proud of Tyler being accepted into Stanford, but we are even more proud of his ability to overcome difficult obstacles. Tyler's resiliency is inspiring to say the least!

Angelina Martinez is making great progress in the FTT program. Angelina is completing her Child Development Associate's degree. She is currently completing an internship at the Discovery Clubhouse where she has earned excellent marks on her evaluations. Great job, Angelina!

Lori Roberts is attending the Davis Applied Technology Center (DATC). She is currently finishing the Dental Assistant Program and completing her externship at Pediatric Dentistry in Layton. Lori had excellent attendance and passed all her classes while caring for her infant. She is well ahead of schedule in the program and is a great example of a hard worker with a good attitude. We expect big things from her. Way to go Lori!

Rachel Burris, a recent graduate of Mountain High, finished school with a 4.0 GPA her last term, a top five ranking in her class, and an invitation to speak at her graduation ceremony. Rachel's success can also be seen outside of

her high school classroom. She was a dedicated participant in the FTT tutoring program and while finishing school, Rachel completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program at DATC. This year, her hard work has earned her a summer work opportunity utilizing her CNA training while gaining work experience. Rachel's positive attitude and performance should be recognized as an example of excellence in our program.

Jose Sida entered our program as a high school dropout with very few credits. Since Jose was a youth under age 18, there were few options for him. With assistance from FTT, Jose was able to access an educational institution that fit his needs. Within the first two months of training, Jose posted nearly as many credits as he had in all the years he had attended school, and after just six months he is expected to graduate in June 2004. His dedication has helped him achieve more than he believed possible. We congratulate Jose for his outstanding achievements.

Noemi Pena recently returned to Utah and the WIA Youth program at FTT after an unexpected move to Texas. She arrived in January and began working immediately toward her Associate's Degree in Medical Administration. Noemi is more than half way finished with her certification and continues to far exceed her classmates. Keep up the good work Noemi!

Recardo Negrete wrote the following on how FTT helped him be successful:

"I'm writing this letter to let you know that the Youth Program, which is directed by FTT, has made a difference in my life and has helped me to accomplish my dream of working in an office environment."

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Region Updates

"I come from a migrant farm worker family who moved from Mexico when I was 15 years old. I went to high school and graduated. I had no work experience in anything else than farm work, so after I graduated from high school I migrated to Washington state to pick cherries in the summertime.

"When I returned to Utah, our home state, I learned that FTT has a program where they helped young people like me to become something in life. I applied for the program and they started helping me to overcome my barriers and accomplish my dreams.

"FTT gave me work experience in an office environment and helped pay for me to get my Associates degree in Accounting. They also helped me to get a permanent job with benefits in an office environment as the Assistant Case Manager for the Farm worker Program. FTT's staff is there whenever I need them for anything - financially, morally. They are my family.

FTT (WIA Youth Program) has made a difference in my life. They gave me the opportunity that I needed to succeed and achieve my dream of working in an office environment. Now I have a job that I always wanted."

Transition to Adult Living Pilot Project: On June 2, 2004, Governor Walker was given an update on the pilot project that is underway in our region with DCFS, DYC and DWS. FTT has been meeting on a regular basis with all of the partners involved in this project. Some of the areas covered include: the referral process, a committee to assist in the screening of referrals, goals that coincide with outcomes for all of the partners involved, resources that are available for youth outside of WIA services, and

continual adjustment and monitoring as the project progresses.

Leadership Project, Futures Through

Training: This year FTT is partnering with the Weed and Seed Program (Ogden City) for the leadership project. Ogden City assisted FTT in identifying an area that needed improving. A hillside designated by a historical sign marked "The Butler Way 1917" needed some sprucing up. To date, the majority of the hillside has been cleared and trees planted. Next will be planting flowers and other plants and dispersing bark. Partnering with the city has allowed FTT to leverage more funds for the project. In the future, a stairway may be added to the hillside.

Summer Employment Opportunity: The Summer Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) is in full swing with youth in the FTT program. We are again partnering with the Ogden City School District for FTT's summer school. This is effective in assisting youth in graduating from high school. We also had our annual training day for youth participating in the SYEO with OSHA and Workman's Comp. in June. Work Readiness workshops will begin in July. This year, we are focused on finding worksites that address the youths' stated career goals, as well as worksites leading to permanent employment.

Best Practices: FTT is losing two case managers soon, both of whom are leaving to pursue higher education goals. A best practice at FTT has been the case managers' tireless efforts in supporting youth in a multitude of ways. The Youth Program Manager, other case managers, and the youth would like to extend a personal thank you to Meda Barker and Maure Smith for their hard work. They will be greatly missed.

Region Updates

CENTRAL REGION:

Strategic Planning Process Undertaken by the Youth Employability Services (YES) Program

The YES program has begun a strategic planning process to formulate its direction for the future. To this end, a consultant was contracted to work with key staff members. During the month of May, a stakeholder survey was developed and mailed to 85 organizations in the community with a vested interest in serving the region's youth development needs. Additionally, a smaller group of stakeholders were invited to a focus group to express their thoughts about the YES program and its services. Participants came from local schools, CBOs, youth related government, and the Regional Youth Council. The feedback is being incorporated into a document that will serve as a basis for identifying several objectives and follow-up strategies to be implemented over the coming year.

Youthbuild Salt Lake Kick-Off

The Youthbuild Salt Lake Program officially began in May. The majority of the participants are also enrolled in the YES program. Approximately 20 young people, all between the ages of 18-21 and without a high school diploma, met for the first time along with their site coordinators, instructors and case manager. Youthbuild enables participants to learn construction trade skills and build a house while earning their GED.

While these are important outcomes, the true objective of Youthbuild is to develop the leadership and teamwork skills. They participated in a Ropes Course training at Camp Kostopolis to learn about team building and each other. A ground breaking ceremony at the

site of the home they will be building in South Salt Lake took place on June 24.

YES Youth Earns Recognition from the Commission on Youth (COY)

The Commission on Youth recognized Bradley Whitham with the Annual Youth Recognition Award at a recent Salt Lake Chamber Commission meeting. Brad has been working at Youth Services in the Christmas Box House on a paid work site learning experience. He has assisted in providing support and supervision to youth under 11 years old that have recently been removed from their homes due to issues of abuse and neglect. The staff at Youth Services has been very impressed with Brad's skills and dedication to the children he serves.

YES Leadership and Mentoring

Eight youth from Salt Lake and Tooele planned, organized, and participated in a service project at the West Valley Animal Shelter on Saturday May 22nd. The youth were there from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. They rebuilt the back porch and did several small construction projects, and also worked with the animals. They worked hard and had a good time.

YES Presence at the Governor's Gifts Conference for Polynesian Youth

In May a group of over 400 Polynesian youth with GPAs of 3.5 or higher were honored at the Governor's Governors Initiative on Families Today (GIFT) Conference for Polynesian Youth.

The YES program is touted as a great opportunity for Polynesian youth to continue their education and training. Bill Afiaki, of the Governors Office for Polynesian Affairs, indicated that the YES program and other WIA regional programs were just what the Polynesian youth community needed.

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Region Updates

EASTERN REGION:

The Uintah Basin Youth Council recognizes a successful youth at each of its monthly meetings. The youth can be from Youth in Custody, Work-based Learning programs, the youth detention facility, or WIA. Shown here is Kathy Deets, Vernal EC employment counselor presenting a certificate to Michael Winkler. Mike worked very successfully in Connections, an after-school program for school-aged kids. Mike's supervisor said that the kids were very fond of him and he brought great enthusiasm and energy to the job.



The Annual Ute Tribe Health, College and Career Fair was held in Ft. Duchesne in April. In this picture, Education Director Cameron Cuch opens the meeting and lends the microphone to the drummers/chanters for opening ceremonies. Many tribal leaders spoke about the importance of education and job skills.



Dallas Arcand, a world-class hoop dancer and rap musician from Canada, was a featured speaker. He captivated everyone with his amazing hoop dancing and music. The songs he presented emphasized to young Native Americans the importance of not getting lost, that they should remember their culture and traditions, and that education and training are very important for them to develop and obtain.



For its Leadership Youth Project, the Roosevelt EC, in concert with a team of youth leaders, developed a service project for Roosevelt City. In late May the youth and DWS staff teamed together to plant the flowers in the planters along Main Street in Roosevelt. After the flowers were planted, there was a session on developing leadership skills and a barbecue.



Region Updates

WESTERN REGION:

Western Region ... Goes Western! Yee-Haw!



Leadership/Citizenship Conference:

WinField Kids, in cooperation with DWS, is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Western Region Youth Leadership/Citizenship Conference. The Youth conference was held at the RockinR Ranch in Antimony, Utah in early June. The following is a brief outline of the event:

1. The two-day Youth Conference focused on the development of leadership skills providing peer-mentoring activities related to animal care and other outdoor activities involved with working in a ranch environment. This included all the fun associated with a real 'dude ranch.'
2. Youth throughout the region were invited to attend and were invited to assist with the planning details. On site participants in the event included 27 youth and 15 adults, representing a diverse cross section of individuals from all around the region.
3. WinField Kids and DWS staff attended the two-day event and chaperoned the scheduled activities. Parents, guardians

and Western Region Youth Council members also attended.

4. The capture of hundreds of photos and hours of video enhanced media coverage. The pictures and video are currently being used to produce press releases, which will be released via media outlets throughout the region. In addition, a wonderful PowerPoint and video production was made, and will be distributed to all participants. Copies of the video production of the event are available for any interested parties.

The Leadership/Citizenship Conference included many Job and Life Skills training opportunities, including:

- Pre-conference organization & planning activities
- On site conference organization & implementation activities
- Ranch maintenance service activities
- Horse related service activities
- Leadership workshops and peer mentoring activities
- Sevier River tubing water activity
- Entertainment activities

Surprise ... Surprise ... Life & Work ...Like A Box Of Chocolates?

You never know what you're going to get. The Leadership/Citizenship Conference included many outside the box experiences for many of the participants. Youth participants came from all across the region with different expectations in mind. It was wonderful to see the youth be placed in situations that required them to make new friends and learn new things. The service projects selected were made difficult by design in efforts to provide a good test of working habits in new and unique surroundings with

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Region Updates

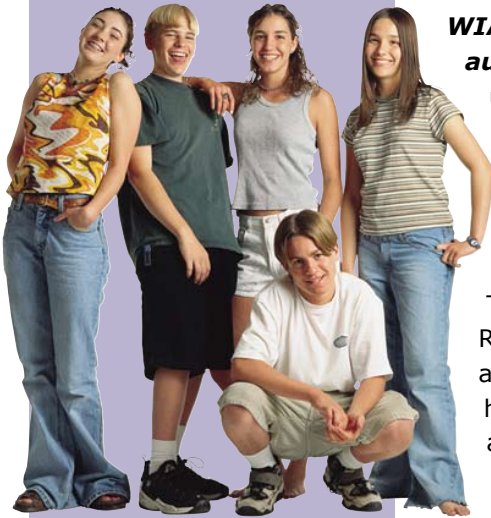
required interaction with strangers. It was great to see the range of emotions expressed from both youth and adults as they stood side by side experiencing hard work and the rewards associated with doing a job well done. Leadership seeds were planted, new friendships formed, and positive life skills and self-confidence was enhanced. If you would like a copy of the video *"Building Self-Worth One Success at a Time,"* contact Ann Barnson at abarso@utah.gov.



WIA Update and Youth Activities

Jane Broadhead

There are many items of interest for SYC members and stakeholders this quarter. Here is a summary:



WIA re-authorization: It is unlikely that any action will be taken prior to the Presidential Election in November.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have each passed a version, and the next step is a conference committee to

work on compromises. A side-by-side analysis of current WIA law, H.R. Bill 1261, and S. Bill 1627 is available on the State Youth Council Web page at jobs.utah.gov/StateCouncil/Youth/dwsdefault.asp. A continuing resolution is expected until well into 2005.

Transition to Adult Living (TAL): TAL is one of Governor Walker's Work Plan initiatives and is moving full throttle ahead. A TAL Implementation Team has been organized and members of the core team are working with the National Governor's Association Policy Academy to eliminate policy barriers and support flexible structures that make sense for service delivery. DWS is requesting a waiver to some of the WIA definitions. Details are available at jobs.utah.gov. The thirty-day comment period ends 07/31/04.

The second annual WIA Youth Citizenship/Leadership Development projects are underway, or have been completed. Meaningful activities, planned by youth participants, happened or are happening in communities across the State.

- Youth in the **Central Region** did a literacy project where they collected and distributed children's books and book bags to child participants of a local youth conference, Leadermete.
- Youth in the **Eastern Region**, Southeastern area are constructing four park benches near a skate park – soon to be playground. Youth in the Uintah Basin area conducted community cleanup/beautification projects. These projects occurred in Vernal and Roosevelt.
- In the **Mountainland Region**, youth purchased books for first grade classrooms in one of the highest poverty elementary schools in the Region. WIA youth will work with the reading specialists from the district to donate their time reading to the children and "gifting" the books to the children.
- Youth in the **North Region**, Wasatch North area planted a hillside in an Ogden Historical area and reconstructed a pathway on the hill. Youth in the Bear River area assisted Utah State Parks and Recreation with free fishing day.
- Youth in the **Western Region** did an improvement project at the RockinR Ranch.

WIA One-Year Plan—Utah was one of ten WIA early implementation states. To align these 'early implementers' with the rest of the nation, WIA One-Year Plans had to be submitted by each of the affected states. Utah's **Strategic One Year**

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State Workforce Investment Plan For Title I of The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 And The Wagner-Peyser Act was submitted to DOL on June 1, 2004. It is available on the DWS web site at **jobs.utah.gov**.

Program Year 2004 WIA Performance Outcomes—

Negotiations with Department of Labor is completed, and there is good news and bad news. PY2003 youth performance outcomes exceeded expectations, and met or exceeded planned levels statewide.

Congratulations to WIA youth providers across the state for their diligence. Workers became familiar with the outcome requirements, created strategies for positive performance, tirelessly encouraged youth to succeed, and reviewed endless clean-up reports to adjust outcomes that could be corrected before the final data went to Congress as part of the WIA Annual Report. The bad news is, because of the level of success, the Department of Labor has increased levels in most of the youth categories, and some have been increased substantially.

Summary of Negotiated WIA Youth Levels of Performance PY04 for Utah

Measure	Negotiated PY 2003	Proposed PY 2004	Negotiated PY 2004	Change from Proposal	GPRA Goals	Actual National Average PY 2003
Older Youth						
Entered Employment Rate	65.0%	65.0%	75.0%	+ 10.0%	65.0%	68%
Employment Retention Rate	80.8%	80.8%	81.0%	+ 0.2%	78.0%	79%
Earnings Change	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,700	+ \$300	N/A	\$2,960
Credential Rate	45.0%	46.0%	60.0%	+ 14.0%	N/A	N/A
Younger Youth						
Skill Attainment Rate	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%	0.0%	N/A	76%
Diploma Attainment Rate	51.0%	51.0%	61.0%	+ 10.0%	52.0%	61%
Retention Rate	55.0%	58.0%	67.0%	+ 9.0%	N/A	58%

The Elusive High School Diploma

Paul Otto, Weber Basin Job Corps

When you were in high school did you ever entertain the idea of dropping out? Not only is that thought on the minds of many of our youth, but it is being carried out!

Depending on which source you subscribe to for calculating dropout rates, in 2002 anywhere from 25-32% of our nation's youth dropped out of high school without obtaining their diploma. Utah's dropout rate was 18-30% (depending on the study). It should also be noted that American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth had a combined dropout rate of nearly 50%.

What constitutes a graduate? Graduation rates are defined as the percentage of students who enter public or charter high schools and graduate with a standard diploma. Those earning certificates of attendance (for not passing the proficiency exams), an adjusted diploma (often awarded to special education students) or an adult-education diploma are not counted as graduating.

What does the future hold for our youth that choose to drop out? Financially speaking, the outlook is grim. In 2000, adults ages 25 to 34 that had dropped out of school or that had not acquired a GED, earned up to 30% less than their peers who had completed high school or had GEDs. The gap widened when comparing the incomes of high school dropouts with those people with bachelor's degrees. In 2000, male and female college graduates earned \$42,292 and \$32,238 respectively, while male and female high school dropouts earned \$19,225 and \$11,583 respectively. (Wirt, 2002).

The Annie E. Casey Foundation study, offering an annual measure of how children are faring, showed that nearly one in six young adults - 3.8 million Americans from 18 to 24 - was not in school or the workplace in 2002. The

number of those young adults grew by 700,000, a 19% increase over three years.

Where do our dropouts go when they leave high school? Many are referred to their local "alternative" high school. However, if a student dropped out of school due to truancy or drugs he or she probably won't possess the discipline necessary to graduate from the alternative school either. Some acquire their diploma through night school or their local ATC. Others simply stay at home or at a friend's house until they become too much of a burden.

What happens next? Let's see, they've worn out their welcome with their family and friends. They have no money and don't qualify for any jobs. If they aren't working or going to school what are they doing? Studies show that teen pregnancy, delinquency, substance abuse, and crime are significantly higher among dropouts (Woods, 1995).

Believe it or not, there is a solution for those who have dropped out of high school. It's found on the campuses of 120 Job Corps Centers nationwide. Job Corps is a free, federal training program specializing in empowering youth ages 16-24 with the social and employability skills necessary to succeed. Job Corps assists youth in obtaining their high school diplomas, trains them in a vocation and places them in jobs. Utah has campuses in Ogden and Clearfield. Weber Basin Job Corps in Ogden has 220 students. Eighty percent of its students are from Utah and nearly 90% dropped out of high school. After completing the program (6-24 months), WBJC has a 90% success rate in placing its students in jobs matching their training or enrolling them in college or the military.

There is no easy solution to our nation's alarming dropout rate. Until we discover one it's nice to know there are other ways for our youth to obtain that elusive diploma.

Job Corp's Student Diplomat Program

Scott Sneddon, Clearfield Job Corps

The Clearfield Job Corps Center has developed a new leadership program for the more than 1300 disadvantaged youth enrolled at the Center. The new program is called the Student Diplomat Program. The Student Diplomat Program is a leadership and community service program that teaches a wide variety of leadership skills while students serve as volunteers in the surrounding communities. The Student Diplomat Program replaces the Ranger and Junior Navy ROTC Programs.

The Student Diplomats tutor educationally disadvantaged elementary students in reading and math in an after-school literacy program. The Diplomats have provided security for the Ogden Symphony and Ballet programs in Ogden. They have helped clean the Ogden River Parkway and assisted in several walk-a-thons. Diplomats are taught classes in leadership skills, communications and event management techniques. These leadership and volunteer community service opportunities provide positive personal growth opportunities for youth in Job Corps. The young Diplomats are provided dark blue blazers, tan pants and white shirts and ties. They represent the Job Corps for what it is: an excellent residential vocational school.

All in the Family

Teenagers would rather spend time with their parents than watch television or play sports. Not only that, but their role models are more apt to be family members than professional athletes or entertainers. Those are the results of a survey conducted by the Horatio Alger Association. In all, 1055 students between the ages of 13 and 19 were queried. Asked how they got along with their parents or guardians, a whopping 74 percent said "extremely well." Only three percent said they didn't get along with their parents. Forty-four percent of the respondents said they thought of their family members as role models, compared with 10 percent who admired entertainers, and eight percent looking up to sports figures. The family role models were broken down as follows:



- Mothers37%
- Fathers30%
- Grandparents..... 9%
- Brothers..... 8%
- Sisters 7%
- Aunts & Uncles..... 5%
- Cousins 2%

Adapted from USA Today

The State Youth Council will coordinate, disseminate and ensure the delivery of quality effective services to Utah youth.

Youth Council Schedule

The State Youth Council meets as part of the State Council on a quarterly basis. Our next meeting after July 15th will be part of the Council of Councils on October 14 and 15 in the Northern region.

Contact Information

If you have suggestions of comments for the newsletter, please contact Julie Lay at jlay@utah.gov. If you have questions regarding the State Youth Council, please contact Jane Broadhead at jbroadhea@utah.gov or go to our Web page at jobs.utah.gov and select State Council/State Youth Council.

If you have questions regarding youth services or youth programs, please contact the Youth Specialist in your area:

Northern: Christine Mayne, cmayne@utah.gov
Mountainland: Wendy Hughes, whughes@utah.gov
Central: Rebecca Banner, rbanner@utah.gov
Western: Ann Barnson, abarso@utah.gov
Eastern: Pattie Hansen, pattiehansen@utah.gov

If you have questions regarding Regional Youth Councils in your area or your Regional Council, please contact the Regional Council Coordinator in your area:

Northern: Susan Hill, shill@utah.gov
Mountainland: Julie Lay, jlay@utah.gov
Central: Diane Lovell, dianelovell@utah.gov
Eastern: Bob Gilbert, bobgilbert@utah.gov
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**Watch for a spotlight on
Outstanding Youth
in our October edition!**



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